

Wisconsin OES Newsletter



Worthy Grand Matron
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October 2025

Sisters and Brothers:

“Autumn is the season that teaches us that change can be beautiful.”

Our District Deputy Schools of Instruction are over. Our Grand Officers are doing their last few Official Visits. A special thanks to the Chapters for the courtesies they extended to both the Grand Officers and District Deputies. We hold the exemplifications, the Schools of Instruction and the Official Visits to help our sisters and brothers with the beautiful work of our Order and our goal of uniformity. This enables us to help, when needed, when visiting another chapter.

A “high five” to those that have completed their Individual Travel Award. It’s easy to earn the points needed. Fill in the sheet and give it to any Grand Officer and receive your “Shining Star” pin.

October is a good time to review your WGM Chapter Accomplishment Award. Check it over to see what items your Chapter still need to complete. Are you visiting other Chapters? Doing “cheer” for your shut-ins? Have special nights planned? Planning social events when you will be dark? Doing Community Service? Our Charity for October is Medical Research/Cancer. Too often cancer strikes our love ones.

Please make your calendar. Our All-State Christmas Party will be Sunday December 7th at the Ridges Golf Course and Banquet Facility in

Wisconsin Rapids. On Saturday March 28, 2026, Wisconsin will be hosting the Michigan/Illinois/Wisconsin Exchange in Green Bay. More information on both of these events will be coming.

We hope to see many of you at the Appointed Grand Officer Parties: October 25th will be Grand Martha, Paula Schwartz and October 26 will be Grand Ruth, Valerie Nelson.

Continue to visit, visit, visit. Travel safe, enjoy the colors of Fall – Nature has been saving up all year for the grand finale!



Always remember you are unique like a snowflake and together we can make a difference and be a light to others.



Judy and Alan



**GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER
Order of the Eastern Star
Established November 1867**

To all Eastern Star Sisters and Brothers around the world,

On behalf of our Most Worthy Grand Matron, Sister Billie Bradfield and Most Worthy Grand Patron, Brother Mike Berry, I am authorized and honored to share this important message with you.

As we have all witnessed—and many have personally experienced—natural disasters are affecting communities across the globe, often striking in the most unexpected places. The devastation, the destruction of homes and livelihoods, and the tragic loss of lives are heartbreaking.

When we knelt at the Altar, each of us made a vow to extend generous aid to those in poverty and distress. **Now is the time to honor that sacred promise.**

The General Grand Chapter Disaster Relief Committee was established during the 51st Triennial Assembly in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, in November 2024. This Committee includes Past Grand Matrons and Past Grand Patrons from 13 Jurisdictions across North America, along with the Most Worthy Grand Matron, Most Worthy Grand Patron, Right Worthy Grand Secretary, and the three Right Worthy Grand Trustees.

The mission of the Committee is to raise and distribute funds to support Jurisdictions affected by natural disasters. Requests for assistance should be submitted by the Worthy Grand Matron to the Committee Chair, **John P. Groves.**

To date, our Disaster Relief Fund has provided aid in response to:

- Floods and landslides in Brazil
- Wildfires in the Province of Manitoba, Canada
- Floods in Texas
- Hurricanes in Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina
- Fires in California and floods in Kentucky (assisted locally within those Jurisdictions)

Since January 1, 2025, **over 39,995 fires** have burned more than **3 million acres** across North America. Floods have caused catastrophic damage and loss of life in **9 U.S. states, 4 countries in South America,** and across **central and eastern Europe.** And the **hurricane season is just beginning.**

Our Disaster Relief Fund cannot continue to meet these urgent needs without **your help.**

What can you do?

- **Organize fundraising events** in your Chapter, District, County, or Jurisdiction.
- **Collect “B Dollars”**—U.S. currency with the letter “B” in the serial number—as well as any form of currency.
- **Designate a "Good of the Order" Collection** for Disaster Relief in **two months** of your choosing during the years **2025, 2026, and 2027** (we recommend May and November).
- **Send your donations**, in U.S. currency, made payable to **“GGC Disaster Relief Fund”**, to the **Right Worthy Grand Secretary, 1618 New Hampshire Ave, NW, Washington DC, 20009.**

Every penny, peso, euro, real, leu, sol, guarani or florin makes a difference.

The next disaster could strike **tomorrow.**

Let us stand ready—united in love and service—to help our Sisters and Brothers in their time of need.

Help us help you. Please act today.

Dream, Imagine and Believe,

General Grand Chapter Disaster Relief Committee

John P. Groves, GGCCM, PGP of Michigan

Chairman

(248) 906-9357 mobile jgrovesoes@gmail.com

We thank you!

This letter is approved and endorsed by:



MWGM Billie Bradfield



MWGP Michael E. Berry

**FROM THE Grand Secretary
PROCEEDINGS FOR 2024-2025**

If you would like to order a copy of the Proceedings Book for the 133rd "Trust in the Lord" Grand Session. **DEADLINE TO ORDER IS OCTOBER 15, 2025.**

NAME: _____
CHAPTER NO.: _____
STREET ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____, STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Check one:

- ____ Hard-bound book - (Approx. \$45.00)
- ____ Spiral-Bound Book- (Approx. \$45.00)
- ____ PDF (free)

Members to be billed will receive their invoice with their order. Send to: Grand Secretary OES, 275 Sunset Dr. Dousman, WI 53118-9349

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

DEADLINE for the November 2025 Newsletter will be: October 22, 2025.

Please get your items in on time. Send pictures (with descriptions) that you want included in the newsletter to secretary.wioes@gmail.com



Please check out the OES BLAST by EMAIL for more OES News, updates, and events. Subscribe at jobiemom@wi.rr.com



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

To Members and Visitors Planning to Attend the 2025 Grand Chapter Session:
Please note the Informal Opening, Presentation of Officers and Introduction of Guests will begin at 6:30 p.m., NOT at 7 p.m. as previously published. A new Trifold is available on the Grand Chapter website.

Save the Date!



It is coming soon!
The Mr. and Mrs. OES Annual Gathering is set for Sunday 12 October at 12:00 at Faros Family Restaurant in Fond du Lac.



All couples who have served in the East together may be members of and join us for the Mr. and Mrs. OES gathering. Widows and widowers who had served together with their spouse are also welcome to attend. We will share a meal, a short business meeting and have a little entertainment. Find us at Faros Family Restaurant, 131 N Pioneer Rd, Fond du Lac, WI. The restaurant is just off Interstate 41 at the Johnson St Exit on the West side of Fond du Lac. RSVP by 5 Oct to Alan Weir or Gail O'Connell, 920-933-2954 or weiralan8@gmail.com.

990N IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

There is a bit of confusion on trying to file your Chapter's 990N form. You need to be on the IRS website to file for free. Log onto www.irs.gov and you want Annual Electronic Filing Requirement for small exempt organizations (990-N postcard) Thank you PGM Sister Rosie for this information.

Upcoming Chapter Events

UNION GROVE MEATBALL DINNER



All beef meatball dinner of 2 oven roasted meatballs with potato, gravy, baked beans, salads, dessert and beverage.

Saturday, October 4, 2025 from 4 – 6pm.

Cost is \$15 per person. **RESERVATIONS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!!**

Call of text George Winget at 1-414-412-1837.

Dine in or take out – Union Grove Masonic Center 1021 11th Avenue, Union Grove.

Wisconsin OES Foundation

Applications are available on the website (www.wioes.org). The next Foundation Meeting will be December 12, 2025. **Deadline for receipt of Applications is December 1, 2025.**

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR MAILING APPLICATIONS and/or donations to the foundation: Mail to Grand Chapter Office, WISCONSIN OES FOUNDATION, 275 Sunset Drive, Dousman, WI 53118. All foundation mail **MUST indicate OES foundation.**

A reminder for any donations to the OES Foundation, checks are to be made out to WI Eastern Star Foundation. The mailing address changed at the last meeting and any questions are to be directed to Alan Weir, Board President.

Necrology Reminder

Sister Joan Burr, Necrology Chair is reminding Chapter secretaries to send her information on any deaths of their members. Her email is jfburr@charter.net. Thank you

MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

Please remember to inform the membership committee when your chapter is hosting an initiation or has voted to reinstate a member. Thank you, Bridget Briski, bbriski17@gmail.com and make sure the Grand Secretary and Blast editor get your new member's email.

There are NEW membership brochures!! Contact the committee for your supply and then PLEASE, PLEASE TOSS OUT THE OLD BROCHURES.

Worthy Matron Handbooks for Sale

Will your chapter have a first time Worthy Matron in the future or new line officers preparing for their turn in the east? Southeast Area Club has a Worthy Matron Handbook for sale. The pages are 8-1/2 by 5-1/2 so it fits in the same size binder as the Red Book. The complete insert, which includes the Order of Business that can be used for preparing for meetings, is \$10. If you only need the Order of Business pages, for those who have been to the East before, a set of 20 meetings is available for \$5.00. If interested contact Jan Winget, j.winget0432@att.ent.

Message From the Webmaster

Send all updates to: wioeswebmt@gmail.com
Please designate one (1) person in your Chapter to send updates to the webmaster. Include your meeting nights each month along with the meeting time. Any other information that is pertinent as far as accessibility will be appreciated as well. Information received will be uploaded into our NEW format so that all members and visitors will be able to locate the needed information! The webmaster is also putting a link from our website to the Facebook page putting a link from our website to the Facebook page.

JOYS AND CONCERNS FOR MEMBERS

WI Grand Chapter extends its sympathy to the LaCourt family on the loss of Brother Ellis; the John Dorsey family on the loss of Sister Janet; the Schreier family on the loss of their daughter Sister Catrina and mother to Charlotte.

Nice to see so many at Carol Turner's reception on her GR appointment coming to an end. Picture is the baby blankets made for donation to shelters, etc. around Sparta/Tomah



GRAND REPRESENTATIVE NEWS!!

Congratulations to Sisters Paula Stevens new GR to Kentucky, Amanda Moede new GR to West Virginia, Susan Froemming new GR to Puerto Rico and Sharon Brunn new GR to Indiana.

Enjoy your commissions!!



GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER PINS FOR SALE



These are the pins for Heart and Alzheimer's. Both are selling for the price of \$10.00 each. All money sold in WI stays in Wisconsin ❤️ Please see Terri Hundhausen, PGM, a member of the Heart Committee or Jane Blackwood, PGM, a member of the Alzheimer's Committee for them

Note about other Masonic Bodies

Many organizations related to or affiliated with Masons are having fun events or open houses – check out their websites for more details. It encourages fun, fellowship, and communication between all of us.



TRICK OR TREAT SAFETY TIPS FOR KIDS, PARENTS, GR.PARENTS!!

With all the craziness happenig right now, just a few "tips" on keeping the night safe for everyone.

1. Trick-or-Treat in Groups or with Trusted Adults
2. Opt for Face Paint or Makeup Over Masks
While masks can complete a costume's look and add an element of intrigue to Halloween, they can also pose safety concerns. Masks can restrict a child's vision, making it difficult for them to see potential hazards or oncoming traffic. To ensure their safety, consider using face paint or makeup instead.
3. Add Reflective Elements to Costumes
4. Inspect Treats Carefully
5. Be Extra Cautious During Popular Trick-or-Treating Hours
Typically trick or treat hours are from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. If you're driving during these hours, be extra vigilant for children and families walking. DRIVE SLOWLY and be prepared for sudden stops or unexpected movements.

As you prepare for Halloween, remember that a balance of fun and safety is key to a memorable and worry-free experience. By following these Halloween safety tips, you can ensure that your children have a fantastic time while remaining safe. Have a safe and happy Halloween!

It is Time to Renew



July 2025-June 2026

Electronic newsletter: Free

Paper (mailed) newsletter - \$25.00.

If you receive the newsletter via US Mail and would like to continue receiving it for the coming year, please renew your subscription by sending your name and \$25.00 (payable to WI Grand Chapter OES). If you have been receiving it by email (which is free) but would like to start getting it in paper copy, please remit your name, \$25.00 subscription fee, and a note that you want to change how you receive the newsletter. The form below is provided for your convenience to renew your subscription or begin subscribing to the printed version. Subscriptions end June 2025 edition.

To renew your subscription or start receiving a paper copy:

Complete the form and send with a check for \$25.00 payable to

Grand Chapter O.E.S. of WI

Mail to: Grand Chapter OES, 275 Sunset Drive, Dousman, WI 53118-9349

Name: _____

PGM/PGP: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Renewal: _____

Message/Note: _____



Hi, I am Eden, a 9-month-old golden retriever. I got out of New Lisbon correctional last week where the inmates helped with training and now, I am excited to continue my training on the “outside”. As you know, dogs must move around for a more well-rounded training, so Igloo went to a new raiser who lives in Madison. Don’t worry, you will have a chance to see him again. Now, Eden would like to continue what Igloo started and ask for continued help from the Sisters and Brothers of Wisconsin Eastern Star. This year, the Service Dog Committee, Jim and Kris Schoville and Gladys Jacobson, is asking you to save dollar bills in which the serial number begins with a “C” or “D”. “C” is for Canine and “D” is for Dog so let’s save those dollars. Let’s have a Chapter challenge – Chapters find a container that you can save these dollars, add them up in March 2026 and the Chapter that saves the most dollars will win a prize at Grand Chapter. Chapters, please send me your total by April 15, 2026, to goldenoessgirl@yahoo.com.



Brother Jim and I also have Kwik Trip gift cards for sale as well. We are selling 5 ultimate car wash cards for \$35, and the Service dog committee makes \$15 for each card. It is only 3 months to Christmas so maybe think about starting your shopping early and support the dogs as well. We also have regular gift cards in \$10, \$20 and \$25 denominations too. Please let me know how many you need. If you have questions, please let Brother Jim or I know.

Did you know that the average bag of dog food costs around \$65 – on the average, a pup in training eats 1 bag every 4 to 6 weeks. That doesn’t seem bad but when we are feeding 50 dogs...well we will let you do the math. PS – that is a lot of bags of food.

In anticipation of your Official Visit, here is the pass requested to be used for proving of the Chapter.

Grand Officer	Pass
Judy Paust, WGM	Martha
Alan Weir, WGP	Adah
Linda Schreier, AGM	Adah
Moses Adams, AGP	Ruth
Kate Smillie, GC	Adah
Maureen Wise, AGC	Esther
Brooke Froehlich, G Adah	Adah
Val Nelson, G Ruth	Ruth
Dawn Bergren, G Esther	Esther
Paula Schwartz, G Martha	Martha
Inge Adams, G Electa	Electa
Paul Twardy , G Sentinel	Adah

Official Visit Information

We are looking forward to the new format for Official Visits and hope you are also. Here are a few reminders and guidelines.

Remember Chapters that are going to another Chapter for a joint OV must request a special dispensation. And yes, it must be brought up and voted on by your Chapter. For OVs with 3 or 4 Chapters, you will have an Elected Grand Officer and an appointed Grand Officer your visitor. The Appointed Grand Officer will help with reading the books and doing other tasks. Please extend courtesies to both Grand Officers.

Please follow the guidelines listed below. If your Chapter doesn't have 7 people present, an Official Visit will be scheduled for your Chapter at a later date.

Your DD School will be done with the Chapters that will work together for the OV.

Guidelines:

1. **Must** have seven (7) members present to have the OV count
2. Dual or plural members can count for **each chapter**
3. **All** initiation lectures, floor work, signet, and secret work must be done in its entirety, with two candidates.
4. **ALL** official visits, regardless if done by one chapter or joint, must have all lectures, floor work, signet and secret work done in its entirety whether they are a member of the chapter or protem. There will be no shortened version of any lecture, including the Associate Patron's lecture.
5. **NO** new members are to be initiated at the OV.
6. Hosting Chapter does not need a special dispensation unless they change the date or time of their normal meeting for the OV.
7. Joint chapter(s) need a special dispensation to change the meeting location, date, and time for the OV. The dispensation (s) must be present at the Official Visit.
8. Official Visits should try to take place at the Host chapter's meeting night. Saturday dates can be considered with ok from WGM and Grand Lecturer.
9. **ALL** Chapters' Treasurer and Secretary books must be available prior to the meeting for review.
10. The Official Visit will include opening, balloting, initiation and closing.

If you have any questions, please contact Laurie Budwick, PGM.

Star Hugs, Laurie Budwick, PGM, wiladybug@gmail.com, (414) 587-0552

2025 Official Visit Schedule

Sep	WGM	WGP	AGM	AGP	Gr. Cond.	AGC	Grand Adah	Grand Ruth	Grand Esther	Grand Electa	Grand Sentinel
2		Crivitz	Eagle								
8	Plymouth Fond du Lac			Kenosha							
9	Ozaukee										
10						Wauwatosa					
15		Sparta Tomah Viroqua									Sparta Tomah Viroqua
16			Ellsworth New Richmond Clear Lake River Falls					Ellsworth New Richmond Clear Lake River Falls			
18					Union Grove, Bristol						
20						* WI Rapids Marshfield Wautoma			* WI Rapids Marshfield Wautoma		
22		Fidelity									
24						Janesville Jefferson Oregon				Janesville Jefferson Oregon	
25					WI Dells						
Oct											
2			Honor		Middleton Madison						
17				Vega West Allis							
20											Superior
21			Argyle, Dodgeville, Shullsburg			La-Crosse	Argyle, Dodgeville, Shullsburg				
23				Mukwonago							
	Chapters in Bold are the host Chapter for the group.										
	*Special meeting										



**KINNICKINNIC CHAPTER
AND NORTHWEST CHAPTER
INVITES YOU TO A RECEPTION HONORING PAULA SCHWARTZ, GRAND MARTHA**

**Saturday, October 25th, 2025
Spirit of Grace Church
127 S 2nd St, River Falls**

**5:00 Social
5:30 Dinner
Program to follow
\$22.00/ person (no refunds)**

**RSVP with Name & Title to:
Brenda Gaulke
221 W Hamilton Dr
River Falls, WI 54022**

**Block of rooms are held until September 24th
Country Inn, 1525 Commerce Court, River Falls
\$149.00 ask for OES Group
715-425-9500**

brendagaulke59@gmail.com





Starlight Chapter #283
Dodgeville Chapter #39

Cordially invite you to attend the luncheon and program for:

Brooke Froelich, Grand Adah
James Schoville, Grand Marshal

Saturday, November 8, 2025

Rex's Innkeeper
301 N. Century Ave
Waunakee, WI 53597

Social: 11:00pm
Buffet Lunch: 12:00pm

Remit \$30.00 per person – Checks payable to Starlight Chapter #283

Send to: Beth Wroblewski, 223 Parador Pl. Cottage Grove, WI. 53527
608-334-1354 beth.wroblewski@yahoo.com)

RSVPs DUE NO LATER THEN NOVEMBER 1, 2025
NO REFUNDS



Return this bottom portion with remittance.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____



Bristol Chapter #164 and Kenosha Chapter #92 invite you to

GUIDING LIGHTS OF THE SEASONS

honoring Grand Chaplain

SUANN GASCOIGNE

and Grand Warder

KATHY LYTLE

Sunday, November 16,

at Parkway Chateau Bristol Room, 12304 75th St., Kenosha

Enter at Entrance B

11 a.m. social hour with cash bar

Noon buffet lunch, followed by introductions and presentations

Cost: \$30 per person * Deadline: Nov. 1 (no refunds)

Make checks payable to Bristol Chapter #164 and mail,

along with titles of those attending, to:

Tara Schweningen, 5211 52nd Street #5, Kenosha, WI 53144

Email: sapphiremom79@gmail.com

Select hotels near the venue:

* Comfort Inn & Suites Kenosha-Pleasant Prairie, 7206 122nd Ave. Kenosha: (262) 857-3450

* Hampton Inn & Suites Kenosha Pleasant Prairie, 7300 125th Ave., Kenosha: (262) 358-9800

* Best Western Executive Inn Kenosha/Pleasant Prairie, 7220 122nd Ave., Kenosha: (262) 857-7699

Welcome to



Saturday, October 18, 2025

**You are invited to explore our town and area at your leisure during the day
- here are some ideas of what to see:**

- Camp Algona POW Museum - tours available, 1-4 p.m., Saturday Suggested donation \$10-\$15
- Algona Nativity Scene - built by the POW's. 9 a.m.-12, Saturday. Freewill donation.
- Grotto of the Redemption @ West Bend. Tours available - allow 1.5 hrs. Suggested donation \$8.00
This is a religious shrine with 9 Grottos depicting scenes from the life of Jesus.
Contains a vast collection of rocks & minerals from around the world. Gift shop available.
- Plum Creek Winery - 2306 160th Ave., just a short drive NE of Algona. (Open 10-6, Fri., Sat. & Sun.)
- Freedom Rocks painted by Ray "Bubba" Sorenson II - there is one in every county in Iowa.
Whittemore, Iowa - (close to the Grotto in West Bend)
Livermore - south of Algona approx. 15 miles then east to Livermore - south of the Elevator

Algona area motels: Please make your own reservations at the motel/hotel of your choice if you are staying over a night in our city.

AmericInn of Algona
600 Highway 18 West
Algona, IA 50511
Phone: 515-295-3333

Please call or check the hotel websites for their current rates.

Whittemore Freedom Rock



Brookstone Lodge of Algona
1909 Highway 18 East
Algona, IA 50511
Phone: 515-200-0027

There are several nice restaurants in Algona and West Bend for your lunch time enjoyment as you tour the area.

Livermore Freedom Rock

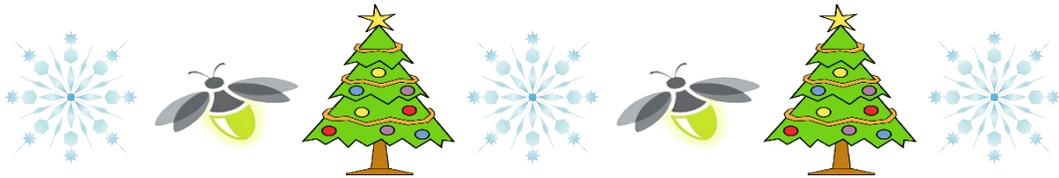


GrandStay Hotel & Suites
840 Highway 18 West
Algona, IA 50511
Phone: 515-395-7829

There will be a catered meal at 5:30 p.m. at the Algona Masonic Lodge 1413 North McCoy Street, Algona, Iowa • Cost: \$25/person Social time 4:30 p.m. and following dinner.



Please RSVP with your name & payment to: Bill Howie, PO Box 952, Manson, IA 50563 for your meal reservation by October 1, 2025 Please make checks payable to Algona Chapter OES Questions? - email: bhowie1026@gmail.com



Save the Date!

December 7, 2025

All-State Christmas Party!

The WGM/WGP will feature: 50/50 Raffle

Bring-A-Book (Free Raffle Ticket With Donation)

Tin Can Raffle

Stay tuned for more Information!

